

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending; claims 25-27 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

I. RESTRICTIONS REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required restriction of the invention to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-24, drawn to prosthesis, classified in class 623, subclass 18.11
- II. Claims 25-27, drawn to surgical method, classified in class 128, subclass 898.

Applicant elects **Group I**, Claims 1-24, drawn to prosthesis, classified by the Examiner in class 623, subclass 18.11.

II. SPECIES ELECTION

The Examiner has further indicated that:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Figure 2, Figure 2a; Figure 2b; Figure 2c; Figure 11; Figure 20; Figure 21; Figure 23; Figure 24; Figure 25; Figure 29; Figure 32; Figure 33; Figure 34; Figure 36; Figure 39; Figure 41 and Figure 42. (*see*, Office action p. 3)

Applicant elects Figure 36.

III. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's return of the signed-off SB/08 forms for the Information Disclosure Statements filed: August 22, 2005 and June 17, 2005.

Applicant looks forward to receiving the signed-off SB/08 forms for the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 8, 2005 and November 3, 2004. Along with the SB/08 forms that accompany the Information Disclosure Statement filed on even date herewith.

Application No. 10/658,449
Response dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 12, 2006


FEE AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. **23-2415** (Docket No. 29914-701.409).

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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